

WHITE POND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

April 27, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:33 p.m.

Present: Jerry Frenkil, Carmen Jaquier, Deborah Ellwood, Norman Willard + 10 guests

Minutes from the February meeting were approved.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

Jim Lyon, a representative of the BFRTAC, gave a report to the group.

He said there was a video circulating showing lots of trees being cut down on the Acton portion of the trail. There seem to be a few reasons for this. 1) The construction was by Rte 2A where a bigger footprint was need. 2) Acton has no environmental monitor. He emphasized that Concord will have an environmental monitor for its portion of the rail trail. It's in contract documents.

Delia Kaye from the Town of Concord DNR added that, pre-construction, she will meet with the contractor and monitor to review all planned erosion controls, especially in Jennie Dugan swamp area. After a question from Deborah Ellwood of WPAC, Delia confirmed that the NE side of Powder Mill will be a staging area where they will put equipment and materials. The size of staging area is in the plans. Town does not have jurisdiction over this since it is outside of 100 feet of wetlands.

Delia also indicated that there will be a sign and a *fence* at the North side of the new culvert, preventing people from entering the culvert. Jim was unaware of this but said he would check on it. He encouraged WPAC to have a representative at the BFRT meetings.

Jerry Frenkil of WPAC asked who in town is making sure that plans are implemented as desired? Delia responded that once plans are put into construction documents, then they get put out to bid. Marcia Rasmussen Town of Concord planning department is the project manager and responsible for converting 100% design to construction plans. Delia suggested asking Marcia about who has jurisdiction over staging area and what will happen to it once construction is completed. Jim Lyon will check on this.

EPA Cyanobacteria monitoring program.

Carmen Jaquier, WPAC member, and Joe Rogers attended the recent EPA Cyanobacteria workshop and will be going to subsequent EPA training. EPA has new mobile lab which will come to White Pond with the intent of encouraging citizen monitoring. May 18 work group and instruction/training on equipment (net for samples, microscope, etc.) will be held in Chelmsford at Technology Drive. Need to set up a date for when van will come, some time after June 1. Looking for press for this. Carmen will send out an announcement that can be forwarded on. J. Frenkil and D. Ellwood offered to forward to their neighbors.

Jerry summarized the 3 water quality monitoring methods on White Pond now:

- Dr. Bill Walker's work, sponsored and coordinated by Friends of White Pond, has been done by volunteers. This is on-going and is expected to continue.
- EPA – algae-focused, *what* is happening, not *why*. This will hopefully begin this summer.
- ESS or other consultant -- some overlap with Dr. Walker's work. Last year they recommended a different suite of info (eg. Sediment sampling for phosphorous, profile changes at different depths, algae) to build a baseline. Recommended a wet weather sampling (eg at boat launch to see how much phosphorous is coming in from that source). Will help us understand the *why*. According to Delia Kaye, funding has been approved – activities would begin after July 1. Monitoring would be first, to begin this summer.

A question was raised about potential effects of the existing bath house that may require further investigation.

Funding status and plans for White Pond projects:

Delia Kaye reported that \$168,000 from Town CPA funds was approved at Town Meeting. Purpose:

- Implement permanent slope restoration (after temporary work last year). Will develop plans for design and construction of permanent restoration. (eg. Bring material in for areas where there are exposed tree roots.) Focus will be 6 areas around Sachem's cove and at boat launch. Design this fall and implementation next summer.
- Replacing infiltration chambers and catch basins at boat launch. Possibly install some along the road. Also concerned about condition of road. May be a companion project (not through CPA funds).

State says if there is money to re-do road, they will do it. Need state legislators to shake money to allocate to that project.

The Rangers will be back this summer (same ones as last year) and funded through the Town budget (\$20,000 allocated for White Pond). Brendan will start May 16. Rowan on May 23. No swimming from conservation land again this year. Alice Kaufmann (Select Board liaison to WPAC) recalled that the Select Board agreed that there would be no swimming off of Town land for 2 years. This would be year 2.

Alice also reported that State Representative Corey Atkins put into the state budget \$50K earmarked for White Pond. The overall budget has not yet been approved. Things are happening. More money is being dedicated to White Pond than has been in a long time.

Bob Hale of White Pond Associates (WPA) reported that the infiltration chambers are on WPA property and that they can be pulled out, washed to remove silt and put back together. WPA would allow that to be done on their property, and could be done in a few days. Delia Kaye said that if the infiltration chambers are more than 100 feet from wetlands and also on WPA property, there is little in terms of regulatory limitations. The next step is for WPA to coordinate with DNR to determine whether the infiltration chambers are within the 100 foot boundary or not. If not, then WPAC can take action with their own money.

Bob Hale added that his estimate to repair, replace and re-pave the access road was \$60K, a lot less than DPW estimate of \$100K to \$200K. There was a discussion with Delia Kaye as to whether this can be done by WPA or whether it would need to go out to bid. An additional drain could be added above the existing two. According to Bob, the "bump out" in the access road is not the easement.

Delia noted that the State has given the Town the right, but not the obligation, to maintain and improve the road and drainage. The Town can transfer maintenance to WPA, but may need State involvement. Dick Hale of WPA believes the WPA board would volunteer to do maintenance. The WPAC recommended that WPA to work with DNR and the Town Manager and make a proposal.

Delia noted that Jim Lyon was one of the driving forces in the proposal for CPC funding for the original management plan and was very grateful for his efforts.

Project Review: 10 Tracy Street

A 7 foot front porch is to be removed and replaced with a 6.5 foot porch, but extended to be 12 feet wide. The project was approved unanimously with the directive that during construction the contractor should be asked to ensure that no construction materials blow and get washed into the Pond.

Other business

Jerry will write up a State of the Pond report, indicating what has been done and what still needs to be done. Will prepare draft and solicit feedback via email.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15. Norman Willard moved. Carmen Jaquier seconded.